

VZCZCXRO7062
PP RUEHSR
DE RUEHSR #0030 3281336
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 241336Z NOV 09
FM AMCONSUL STRASBOURG
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0196
INFO RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0146
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 0001
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS 0062
RUEHSR/AMCONSUL STRASBOURG 0207

UNCLAS STRASBOURG 000030

SIPDIS

STATE ALSO FOR EUR/ERA AND DRL/NESCA; BAGHDAD FOR K LEONARD

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF EUROPE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY DECLINES TO OBSERVE
IRAQI NATIONAL ELECTIONS

REF: STATE 114183

(SBU) Mateo Sorinas, Secretary General of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) informed us November 24 that the PACE has declined the invitation to observe the Iraqi national elections. Sorinas explained that the PACE observes elections only within Europe, with the one exception being the Palestinian Territories, because of PACE's "special relationship" with the Palestinian Authority. We note that earlier one of Sorinas' assistants had advised us that PACE insurance does not cover travel to and inside Iraq.

CARVER